IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) An aromatic diamine derivative of formula (I):

(I)

wherein,

 R_1 is H or C_1 - C_5 alkyl; and

R₂ is a cholesterol derived radical selected from the group consisting of:

; and

2. (Withdrawn) The diamine derivative of claim 1 wherein R_1 is H or methyl and R_2 is

- 3. (Withdrawn) The diamine derivative of claim 1 which is 4-[(17-(1,5-dimethylhexyl)-10,13-dimethyl-1,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-3-yl)-oxy]-1,3-benzenediamine.
- 4. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing the compound of formula (I) of claim 1, the method comprising:
 - (a) reacting a dinitrobenzene compound of formula (II)

$$O_2N$$
 NO_2
 R_1
 (II)

with a cholesterol compound HOR₂ in the presence of a base and an inorganic solvent to obtain a compound of formula (III);

$$O_2N$$
 O_2
 OR_2
 OR_2
(III)

and

(b) hydrogenating the compound of formula (III) to obtain the compound of formula (I)

$$R_1$$
 NH_2 OR_2 (I)

wherein R₁ and R₂ are as defined in claim 1, and X if F, Cl, or Br.

- 5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein the base is selected form the group consisting of the carbonates of IA and IIA metals, trimethylamine, triethylamine, and diisopropylethylamine.
- 6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein the organic solvent is selected from dichloroethane, methane dichloride, chloroform, acetone, butanone, N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP), N,N-dimethylacetamide (DMAC), and N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF).
- 7. (Canceled)
- 8. (Currently Amended) The polyimide resin of claim 7 10 wherein the diamine comprises at least 20 mol% of one or more of the diamine derivatives of formula (I) of claim 1.
- 9. (Currently Amended) The polyimide resin of claim 7 10 wherein the diamine comprises 4-[(17-(1,5-dimethylhexyl)-10,13-dimethyl-2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-tetradecahydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[*a*]phenanthren-3-yl)-oxy]-1,3-benzenediamine.

10. (Currently Amended) A polyimide resin for use in a liquid crystal display cell as an alignment film material, the polyimide resin being obtained by a polymerization reaction of a tetracarboxylic acid or a dianhydride derivative thereof with a diamine, wherein the diamine comprises at least 5 mol% of one or more of the diamine derivatives of formula (I):

$$H_2N$$
 NH_2 OR_2

(I)

wherein,

R₁ is H or C₁-C₅ alkyl; and

R₂ is a cholesterol derived radical selected from the group consisting of:

and

 $\quad \text{and} \quad$